

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 32-35 have been further revised, without prejudice, for clarity in referring to the transfected human cell of the claims as being different from the glutamine auxotrophic human cell. The transfected human cell of the claims is not defined in the revised claims as being a glutamine auxotrophic human cell as biologically the transfected cell is not a glutamine auxotroph. Claims 32-35 have also been revised to refer to extended viability, as described by, for example, the disclosure at page 25, lines 3-4 of the specification. New claims define further aspects of the disclosed invention. No new matter has been added.

In addition to the remarks of record, the applicants further submit that while Gawlitzek (Biotechnology and Bioengineering, Vol. 68, No. 6, June 2000, pp 637-646) may mentions in the introduction (last sentence, page 637 – with reference to Schneider et al. J Biotechnol. 1996), that numerous studies reported negative effects of elevated ammonium concentrations on cell growth and productivity of different cell lines, Gawlitzek is understood to have observed "no detrimental effect of high ammonium on cell growth or viability" and "cell-specific productivity of TNFR-IgG was similar in all cases" (page 641, first paragraph, left column; Figure 1). In other words, the applicants believe that Gawlitzek was unable to confirm the findings described by others such as Schneider et al. Gawlitzek neither teaches nor suggests a method to extend cell viability or a method to increase sialylation by way of transfecting a cell line with a GS gene, as claimed.

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The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance for the above-noted reasons and for the reasons of record. A Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned, preferably by telephone, in the event anything further is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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